

A
NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUND NO. 1-0481
FRANK M. FEINBERG

MARCH 31, 1976

YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY FOR INTER-DEPENDENT WORLD

ANNCR:

THIS YEAR IS A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH A NEW BASIS FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SO REPORTS THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AN EMINENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BODY. VOA ECONOMICS EDITOR FRANK FEINBERG HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT:

VOICE:

THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, A PRIVATE WASHINGTON-BASED GROUP, SAYS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EFFECT MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CHANGE IS POSSIBLE FOR TWO REASONS. ONE, THE LARGE NUMBER OF NEGOTIATIONS NOW IN PROGRESS WORLDWIDE. AND TWO, BECAUSE BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING LANDS APPARENTLY REALIZE THAT CONTINUING TALKS--AND NOT CONFRONTATION--ARE BEST FOR ALL PARTIES. (OPT) BUT THE COUNCIL, IN ITS NEW APPRAISAL OF THE WORLD, MADE PUBLIC WEDNESDAY, WARNS THAT 1976 COULD OFFER THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RAPPROCHEMENT WHICH WILL NOT REAPPEAR FOR SOME TIME TO COME. (END OPT)

THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, IN ITS NEW (MARCH THIRTY-FIRST) SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, FOCUSES ON SEVERAL ISSUES WHICH IT CONSIDERS CRUCIAL--INTERNATIONAL TRADE REFORMS, GLOBAL FOOD PROGRAMS, ENERGY AND MORE HELP FOR THE WORLD'S POOREST NATIONS.

THE COUNCIL COMMENDS THE UNITED STATES FOR WHAT IT CALLS A NEW DIRECT APPROACH TO HELP ALLEVIATE DIRE POVERTY OVERSEAS. THE COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN, FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH, DESCRIBES THE FORTY-ONE PROPOSALS THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED AT THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST SEPTEMBER AS "AN APPROACH OF COOPERATION AND HONEST EXPLORATION." FATHER HESBURGH, PRESIDENT OF NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY, IS A CANDID PERSON WHO CRITICIZES BOTH THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE THINKS THEIR APPROACH TO PROBLEMS IS NOT CORRECT. BUT, IN THE COUNCIL'S REPORT, HE SAYS THE UNITED STATES' FORTY-ONE PROPOSALS DEMONSTRATES THAT IT WILL TALK SERIOUSLY ON BOTH THE SUBSTANCE AND MACHINERY OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

ON GLOBAL FOOD PROGRAMS, THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SAYS MORE MUST BE DONE BY BOTH FOOD EXPORTING NATIONS, LIKE THE UNITED STATES, AND FOOD-DEFICIENT NATIONS. SPECIFICALLY, COUNCIL PRESIDENT JAMES GRANT, A FORMER U.S. CAREER DIPLOMAT, SAYS RESERVE FOOD STOCKS MUST BE BUILT UP, MORE MONEY MUST BE PROVIDED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FOOD OUTPUT MUST BE RAPIDLY INCREASED IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. (OPT) MISTER GRANT REALISTICALLY POINTS OUT THAT ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES LARGELY HAS BEEN ATTAINED, IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME IS NEEDED. (END OPT)

THE COUNCIL SAYS NATIONS SHOULD SEE THE ENERGY PROBLEM FOR WHAT IT IS: "A GLOBAL PROBLEM THAT WILL BE BEST SOLVED THROUGH GLOBAL APPROACHES." JAMES HOWE

AN ENERGY AUTHORITY, SAYS PRIORITY IS TO HELP ENERGY-POOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO PAY FOR ESSENTIAL ENERGY IMPORTS. BEYOND THIS, HE ADVOCATES A GLOBAL RESPONSE TO ENERGY NEEDS INCORPORATING BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PLANNING.

IN MISTER HOWE'S WORDS: "ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF ENERGY AT REASONABLE PRICES TO ALL NATIONS." HE MAINTAINS THAT THE COST OF ACHIEVING THAT GOAL WOULD BE LOWER FOR ALL CONCERNED, IF THEY WORKED TOWARD IT COOPERATIVELY, RATHER THAN IN GOING IT ALONE.

-0-

JS/RTD